

REMARKS

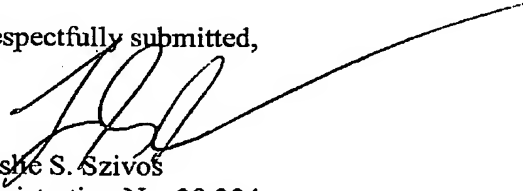
Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants observe that the present Office Action is an *Ex Parte Quayle* Action; therefore prosecution of the instant application is closed. Applicants further observe that the Examiner has indicated that the non-elected Species of Claim 9 has been rejoined with Claims 1-8 and 10-16. Moreover, the Examiner has indicated that the application, including Claims 1-16, is in condition for allowance except for the presence of the non-elected structure claims, i.e., Claims 17-20.

In response to the present Office Action, applicants have cancelled Claims 17-20 in this Response. For consistency, applicants have made a minor amendment to each of Claims 10, 15 and 16 wherein the term "claim" was changed to "Claim".

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the present case is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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